



# City of Lewiston

IDAHO'S ONLY SEAPORT

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19 February 1993



Federal Communications Commission  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17326

RE: FCC DOCKET 92-235

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The purpose of this letter is to voice opposition to new public safety radio use rules proposed in FCC Docket 92-235. The Lewiston Fire Department in north central Idaho is a paid full-service public safety organization providing fire suppression, fireboat operation, aircraft rescue firefighting and hazardous materials response to our City of 28,000. We also provide rescue and extrication and emergency and nonemergency ambulance service to a tri-state, six-county area covering 1400 square miles with a population of 64,000. The topography of our response area is varied and rugged. Elevations run from 750 feet above sea level in river canyons to 7600 feet above sea level in mountainous terrain. Three remote repeater sites make it possible for us to provide radio coverage over most, but not all, of our current response area.

The Lewiston Fire Department has fire suppression mutual aid agreements with four other cities, one private corporation and one fire district. The proposal to reduce the occupied bandwidths of existing VHF and UHF users and reduce base station power output will have a negative impact on our ability to provide quality service to our citizens and the populations we serve as emergency medical service providers and mutual aid co-operators. The financial impact will be especially onerous and beyond the ability of jurisdictions our size to bear.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider, and approach the large metropolitan areas who will profit at our expense about other possible solutions. With their much greater financial resources, surely other options exist than to further burden those who are forced by circumstances to do the most with the least.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Tomberg  
Fire Chief

c: Jack Baldwin, Police Chief  
Jan Vassar, City Manager

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